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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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MAY

IND.

"SPIDER-MAN
GOES MAD!"



A STARTLING
MYSTERY TALE
IN THE MIGHTY
MARVEL
TRADITION!

ANOTHER
SMASHING,
OFF-BEAT
THRILLER
FOR THE
GREAT NEW
BREED OF
MAGAZINE
READER...
FOR
YOU!



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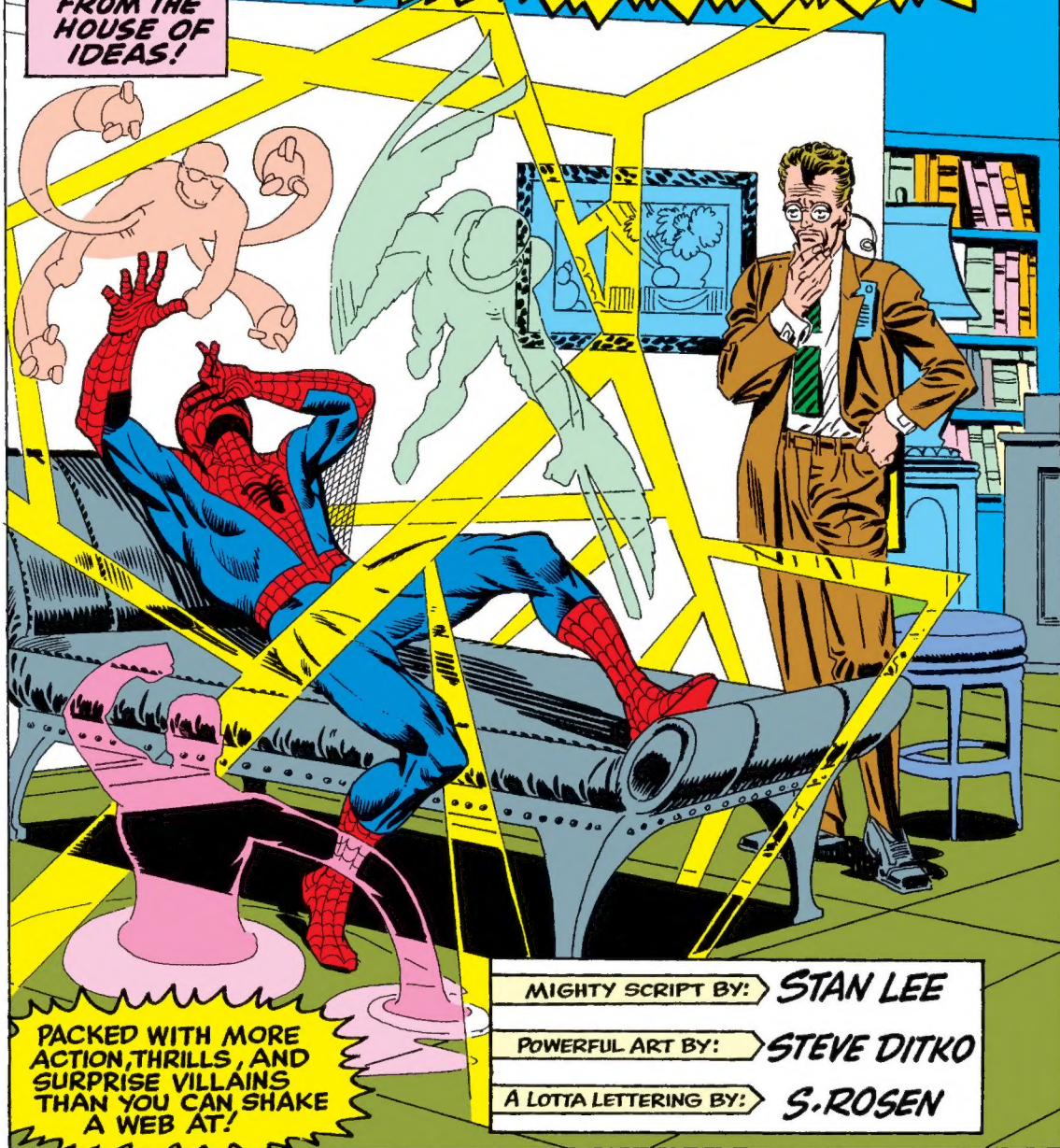
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THE SHOCKER YOU NEVER EXPECTED TO READ!

"SPIDER-MAN GOES MAD!"

ANOTHER
TOWERING
TRIUMPH
FROM THE
HOUSE OF
IDEAS!



PACKED WITH MORE
ACTION, THRILLS, AND
SURPRISE VILLAINS
THAN YOU CAN SHAKE
A WEB AT!

MIGHTY SCRIPT BY: **STAN LEE**

POWERFUL ART BY: **STEVE DITKO**

A LOTTA LETTERING BY: **S. ROSEN**

THIS IS THE HOUSE PETER PARKER LIVES IN! AND, WHAT COULD BE MORE NATURAL THAN FINDING PETER PARKER HIMSELF INSIDE!?! THE DOORBELL HAS JUST RUNG, PETE HAS JUST ANSWERED IT, AND AWAAAY WE GO...!

IT'S A C.O.D. FOR MAY PARKER... \$6.75!

AUNT MAY'S NOT HERE! I'LL GET THE MONEY FROM THE COOKIE JAR!

HMM... NOT MUCH LEFT!

HERE'S SEVEN BUCKS...KEEP THE CHANGE!

IT'S THE NEW HAT SHE BOUGHT FOR MRS. WATSON'S TEA PARTY!

POOR AUNT MAY...NO MATTER HOW SHE SCRIPS AND PINCHES PENNIES, WE JUST CAN'T SAVE ANY MONEY! I'VE GOT TO HELP OUT SOMEHOW!

AND, I KNOW JUST THE WAY TO DO IT!

EXACTLY FIVE MINUTES LATER...

I HAVEN'T SOLD ANY NEWS PHOTOS TO JONAH JAMESON IN WEEKS BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BUSY STUDYING!

HOOKEED TO MY BELT, I'M GONNA FIND SOME HOT NEWS SCOOP TO PHOTOGRAPH, JUST LIKE A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN SHOULD!

BUT NOW, WITH MY TRUSTY OL' CAMERA

JUST MY LUCK! I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CITY SO QUIET! I CAN'T EVEN FIND A JAY-WALKER, OR A BIG, BAD LITTERBUG TO PHOTOGRAPH!

UH OH! WHAT'S THAT DOWN THERE?!!

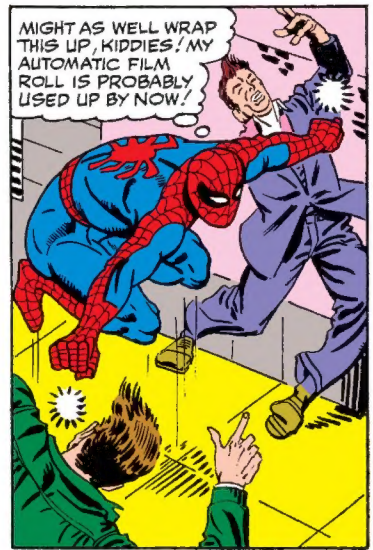
WELL, BLESS MY BRITCHES! LOOKS LIKE A NICE HEALTHY BURGLARY GOING ON DOWN BELOW!

IT'S JUST SMALL-TIME STUFF... BUT IT'LL PAY BETTER THAN A PICTURE OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE!

I'LL GET UP THE CAMERA RIGHT HERE!

NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS WAIT TILL THEY COME OUT WITH THEIR LOOT!

MY ONLY DANGER IS...I MAY GET BORED TO DEATH!







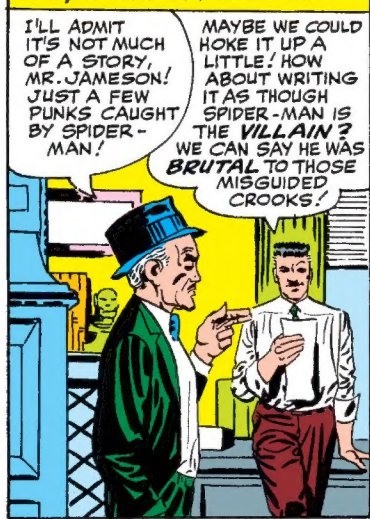
CONSUMED BY A NAGGING JEALOUSY, AND HATING HIMSELF FOR IT, PETER PARKER AGAIN CHANGES TO **SPIDER-MAN**, AS HE SWINGS THROUGH THE CITY, TRYING TO DRIVE THE DIS-APPOINTMENT FROM HIS MIND!



THEN, FINALLY, THE MOOD PASSES, AND ...



AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT ...



SPIDER-MAN IS THE ONE WHO SENT **YOU** TO JAIL MONTHS AGO, FOSWELL! * HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM **NOW**?



OKAY, FOSWELL, LET ONE OF THE SOB SISTERS REWRITE YOUR STORY AND PUT SOME **SCHMALTZ** IN IT!

I'LL BET HE'S **ONE** GUY WHO HATES THAT MASKED MENACE MORE THAN **I** DO!!



SAY! THAT GIVES ME A GREAT IDEA FOR A NEW **SERIES**! INSTEAD OF **ME** ALWAYS WRITING EDITORIALS AGAINST HIM, I'LL PRINT **OTHER** PEOPLES' OPINIONS ABOUT WHY THEY ALL **HATE** HIM!



THE VERY NEXT DAY, JONAH JAMESON HAS REPORTERS INTERVIEWING PEOPLE ALL OVER TOWN...

NOW THEN, MA'AM, IF YOU'LL JUST SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, I'LL GET YOUR ANSWER DOWN ON TAPE! WHY DO YOU HATE SPIDER-MAN?

BUT...I NEVER SAID I DO HATE SPIDER-MAN!

LOOK, DO YOU WANT YOUR NAME AND PICTURE IN THE PAPER, OR DON'T YOU?

WELL, GIVE ME A MINUTE... I'LL THINK OF *SOME* REASON...

AND, UNDER THE RIGHT KIND OF QUESTIONING, IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE THE DAILY BUGLE REPORTERS HAVE THE ANSWERS JAMESON WANTS ...!

IF YOU ASK *ME*, HE'S TOO CREEPY-LOOKING IN THAT MASK AND COSTUME!

EVERYONE *KNOWS* HE'S A PUBLIC MENACE! I SAY HE SHOULD BE PUT IN JAIL...FOR *LIFE*!

WHAT HONEST MAN WOULD PROWL THE CITY AT NIGHT THE WAY HE DOES??

IF HE AIN'T JUST A PLAIN *CROOK*, WHY DON'T HE TELL EVERYBODY WHO HE *IS*??

ANSWER *ME* THAT!

I SAY HE'S A *COWARD*! HE FIGHTS AND THEN RUNS AWAY!

BUT, IN THE VAST SPRAWLING METROPOLIS, THERE IS *ONE* WHO IS EVER LOYAL TO SPIDER-MAN...!

HEY! ONE SIDE... *ONE SIDE!* LET ME *THROUGH!* I WANNA TALK TO THAT CRUMB!

FLASH THOMPSON, CAPTAIN OF THE MIDTOWN HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM, I THINK SPIDEY'S THE *GREATEST!* AND YOU BETTER *PRINT* THAT!

EH, AH, SORRY, SON... I'M ALL OUT OF *TAPE* NOW!

IF YOU KEEP QUOTING ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO *HATE* SPIDER-MAN, THE ONLY TAPE YOU'LL NEED WILL BE *ADHESIVE TAPE*... TO PUT ON THE FAT LIP I'LL GIVE YOU! DO YOU *READ* ME??

SURE! SURE! WE ALWAYS TRY TO BE *FAIR* ON THE BUGLE! WELL, EH... I'VE GOTTA RUN NOW!

MEANTIME, LIZ ALLAN, FLASH'S RELUCTANT GIRL FRIEND, SPEAKS TO PETER PARKER...

PETEY, YOU'RE THE BEST STUDENT IN THE ENTIRE SENIOR CLASS! I WONDER IF YOU'D DO ME A BIG FAVOR?

SURE, LIZ! ANYTHING I *CAN*! WHAT *IS* IT?

I'M DOING BADLY IN MY GRADES IN *SCIENCE*! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD *COACH* ME SOME EVENING? YOU'RE SUCH A WHIZ AT IT!

SURE, LIZ! THE FIRST CHANCE I GET! I'LL BE GLAD TO!

BUT, BY NOW, SPIDER-MAN'S BIGGEST FAN HAS REACHED THE SCENE ...

PUNY PARKER'S TRYIN' TO BEAT MY TIME WITH LIZ AGAIN! HOW I *HATE* THAT EGG-HEADED BOOKWORM!

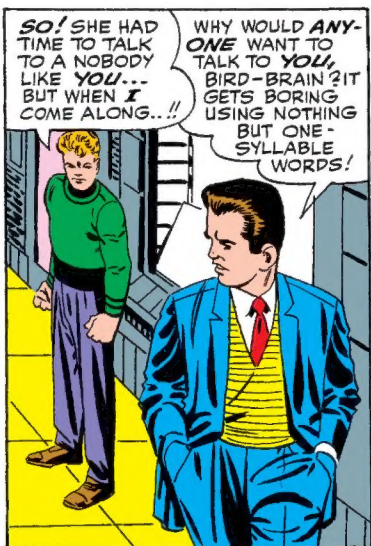
THANKS A MILLION, PETEY, DEAR!



WELL, I'LL PROVE THAT *I'M* THE ONE SHE'S NUTS ABOUT!

HI, LIZ! I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR YOU!

SORRY, FLASH... I CAN'T STOP NOW! I HAVE TO RUN! TOODLE-OO!



SO! SHE HAD TIME TO TALK TO A NOBODY LIKE *YOU*... BUT WHEN *I* COME ALONG...!!

WHY WOULD *ANYONE* WANT TO TALK TO *YOU*, BIRD-BRAIN? IT GETS BORING USING NOTHING BUT ONE-SYLLABLE WORDS!



IT WON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO BEAT HIM UP *NOW*, WITH NO ONE LOOKING! BUT SOME DAY... WHEN I GET THE CHANCE, WITH A *CROWD* AROUND...!!

POOR FLASH! IF HE EVER FOUND OUT HE'S WASTING ALL THAT HATRED ON HIS WEB-SLINGING *IDOL*!!

MEANWHILE, THE FIRST OF JAMESON'S NEW ANTI-SPIDER-MAN SERIES HITS THE STREETS AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BECOMES THE TALK OF THE TOWN...



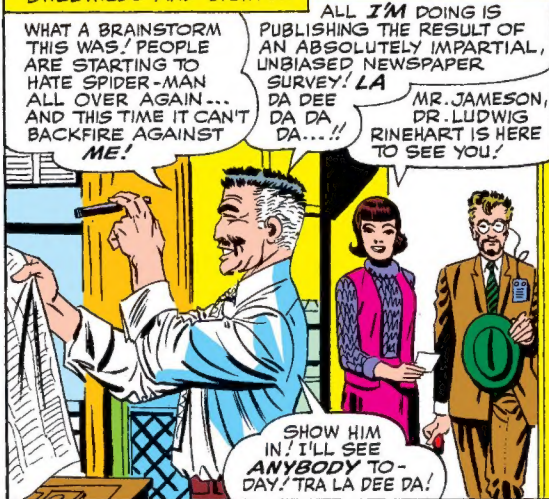
I NEVER THOUGHT SPIDER-MAN WAS SO BAD... BUT EVERYBODY *ELSE* DOES! I GUESS I WAS *WRONG*!

YEAH! HE *MUST* BE A MENACE IF EVERYONE *SAYS* HE IS!

I'M GOING TO WRITE TO THE *MAYOR*! WHY ISN'T SPIDER-MAN BEHIND BARS??

I SAY WE OUGHTA GET UP A *PETITION*!

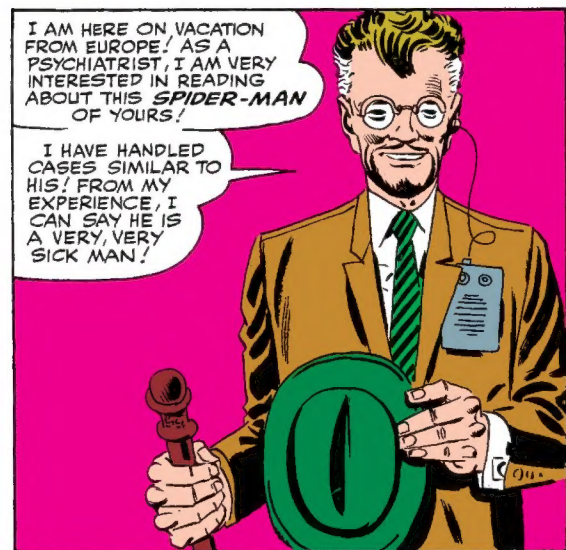
AND, IN THE OFFICE OF JONAH JAMESON, ALL IS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT...



WHAT A BRAINSTORM THIS WAS! PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO HATE SPIDER-MAN ALL OVER AGAIN... AND THIS TIME IT CAN'T BACKFIRE AGAINST *ME*!

ALL *I'M* DOING IS PUBLISHING THE RESULT OF AN ABSOLUTELY IMPARTIAL, UNBIASED NEWSPAPER SURVEY! *LA DA DEE DA DA...!!*

MR. JAMESON, DR. LUDWIG RINEHART IS HERE TO SEE YOU!



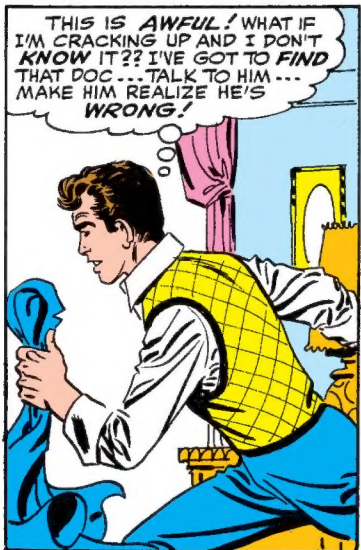
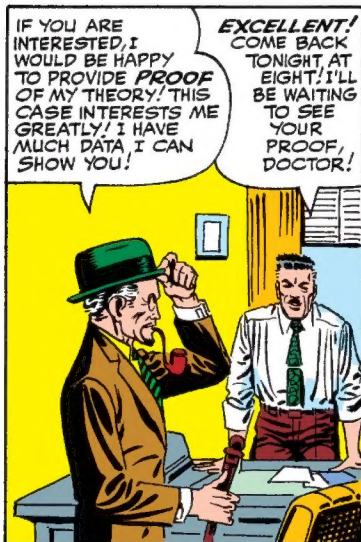
I AM HERE ON VACATION FROM EUROPE! AS A PSYCHIATRIST, I AM VERY INTERESTED IN READING ABOUT THIS *SPIDER-MAN* OF YOURS!

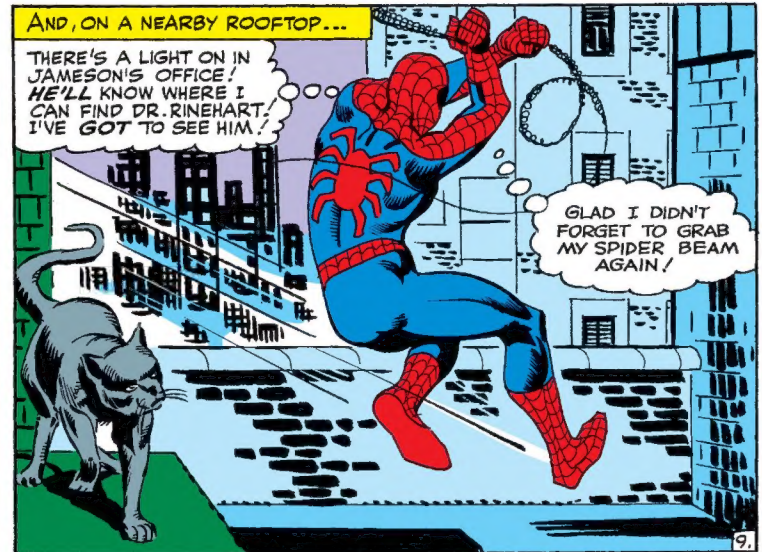
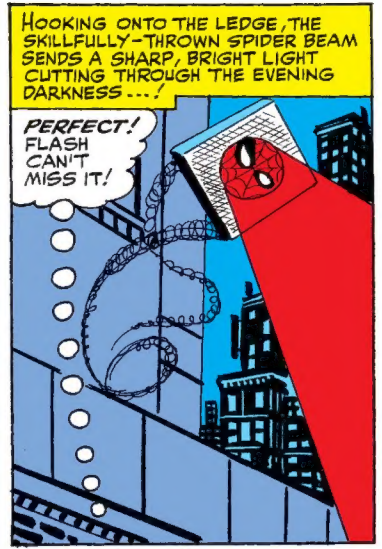
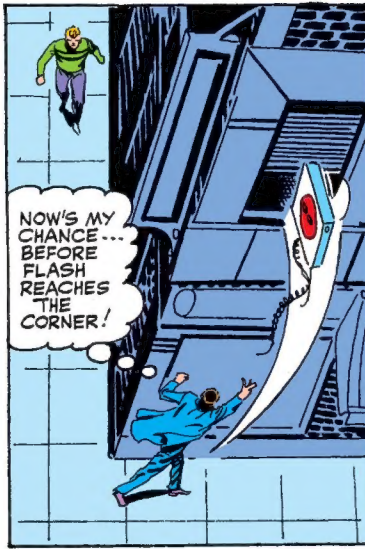
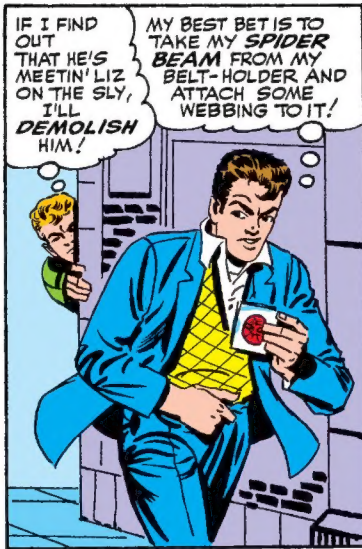
I HAVE HANDLED CASES SIMILAR TO HIS! FROM MY EXPERIENCE, I CAN SAY HE IS A VERY, VERY SICK MAN!

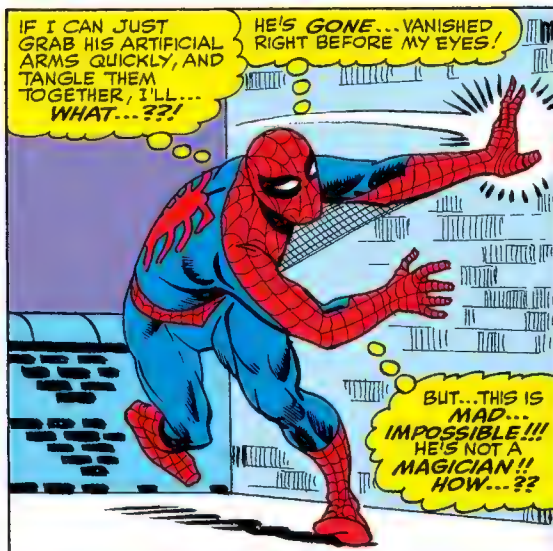
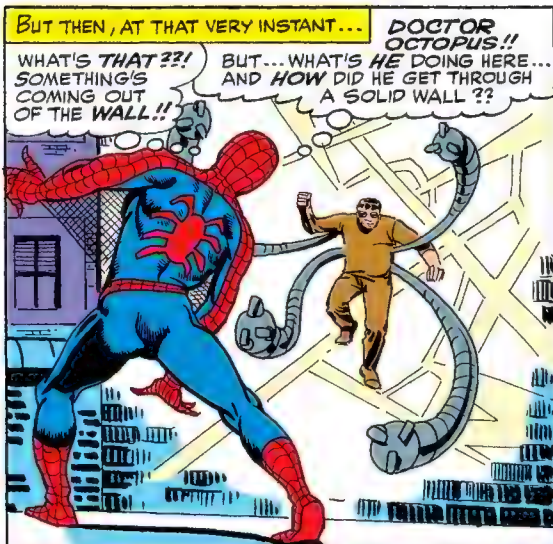


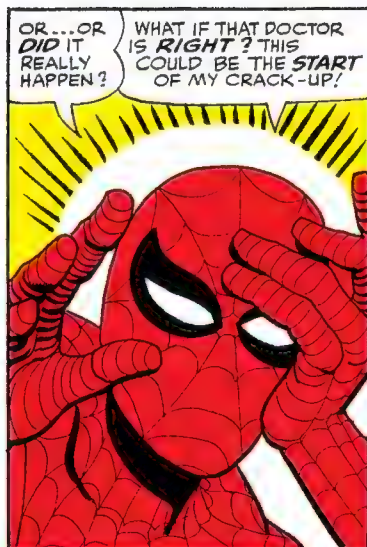
YOU SEE, HE IS IN A *FANTASY WORLD* NOW! HE *WANTS* TO BE A SPIDER... BUT, OF COURSE, HE IS A HUMAN BEING! IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HIS ID AND HIS EGO GET SO CONFUSED THAT HE FORGETS WHO HE *REALLY* IS... AND THEN HE WILL SUFFER A SEVERE *BREAKDOWN*!

IT SOUNDS VERY LOGICAL... *WONDERFULLY* LOGICAL! BUT... HOW CAN YOU BE *SO SURE*?





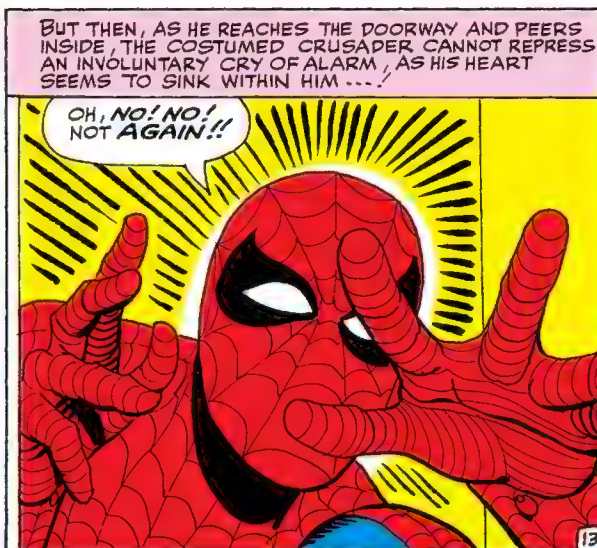
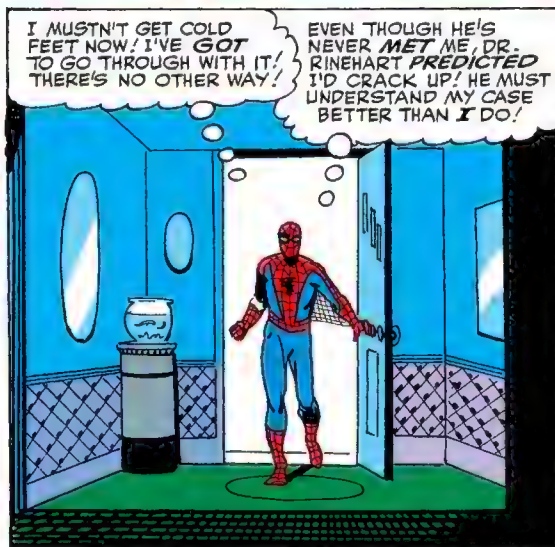
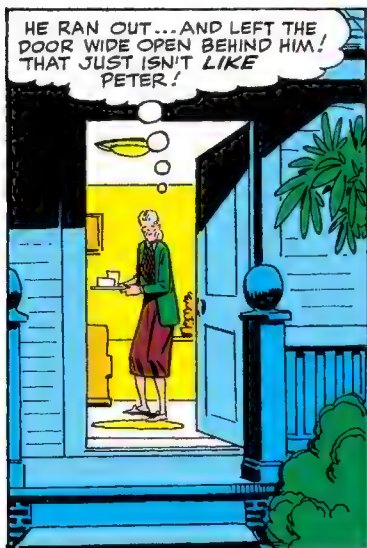


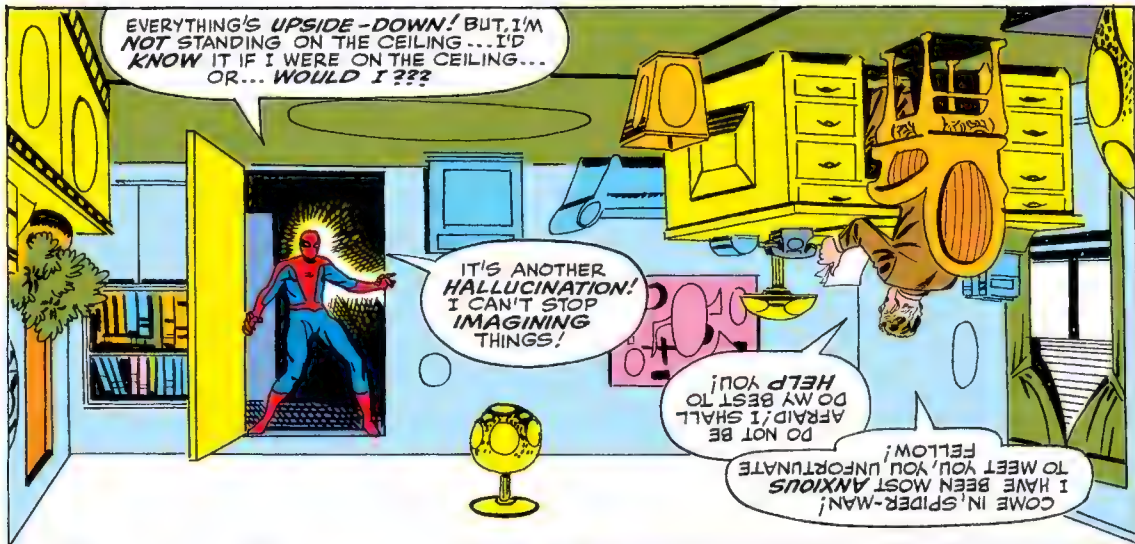


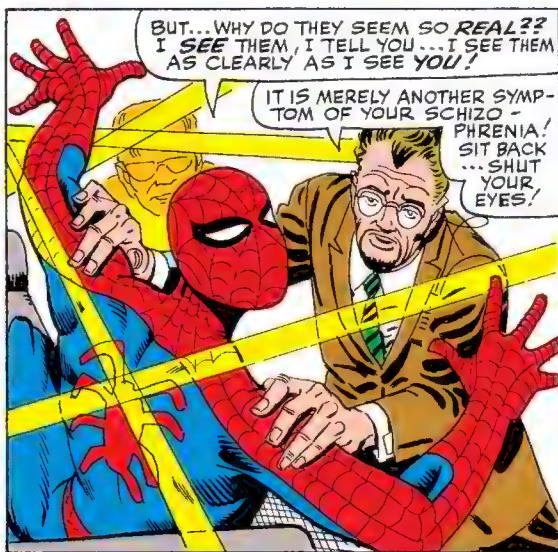
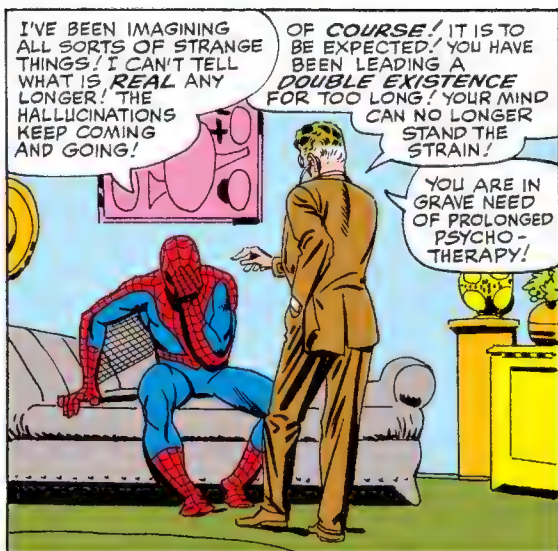
BUT, ONCE AGAIN, BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN FULLY MARSHAL HIS FRIGHTENING THOUGHTS, ANOTHER ARCH-ENEMY SEEMS TO MATERIALIZE OUT OF NOWHERE...

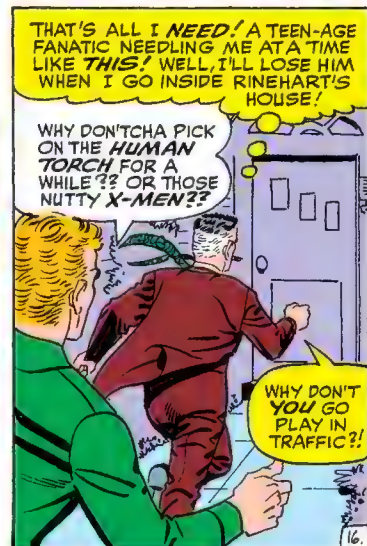
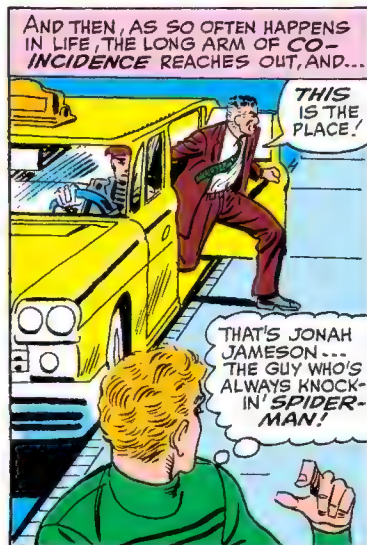
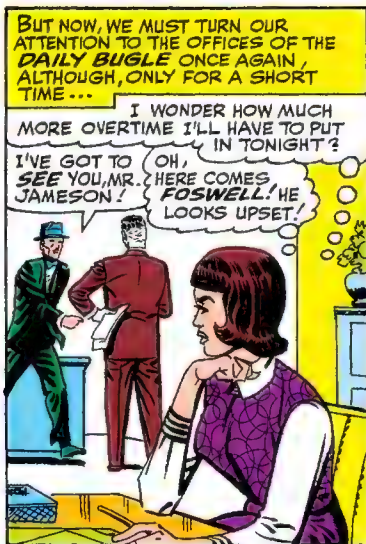












GOOD! THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED! I WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THAT ODDBALL OUTSIDE WHILE I WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO OPEN IT!

THERE'S A LIGHT IN THE BACK ROOM! HE MUST BE IN THERE!

AND, WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY TO HIM CAN'T WAIT! I'M GOING IN NOW!

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT IF WHAT FOSWELL TOLD ME WAS TRUE! AND, IF IT WAS, RINEHART WILL BE SORRY HE EVER HEARD OF J. JONAH JAMESON!

AND ANOTHER THING! I MAY GET SOME FRIENDS TOGETHER AND PICKET YOUR PAPER!

WHILE, IN THE ROOM AHEAD, WE FIND...

THE ROOT OF YOUR PROBLEM IS, OF COURSE, YOUR DUAL IDENTITY! BUT, IF YOU WERE TO MAKE YOUR TRUE IDENTITY KNOWN, MUCH OF THE STRAIN WOULD BE GONE!

I CAN'T! I MUST NEVER TELL WHO I REALLY AM! I WOULD... HURT... TOO MANY PEOPLE!

REALLY?? MOST INTERESTING! TELL ME WHO THEY ARE, AND I'LL BE THE JUDGE!

AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME, DON'T YOU? YOU KNOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP YOU!

AND, YOU KNOW YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP BEING SPIDER-MAN! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOURSELF! THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP FROM GOING COMPLETELY MAD!

I... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN HAVING THESE HALLUCINATIONS! IT WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD BEING SPIDER-MAN IF I LOSE MY MIND IN THE PROCESS!

BUT THEN, JUST AT THAT MOST CRUCIAL, THAT MOST FATEFUL MOMENT...

RINEHART! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, YOU PHONY! I FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE NO DOCTOR! YOU'VE GOT NO LICENSE! YOU'RE A FRAUD!

JAMESON! STAY AWAY! DON'T COME IN NOW! WAIT OUTSIDE... I ONLY NEED ANOTHER FEW MINUTES...

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU NEED, YOU CROOK! I WANT TO... WHA...? SPIDER-MAN!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?? WHAT'S GOING ON???

OH HO! NOW! I GET IT! YOU MUST BE IN CAHOOTS WITH THAT FRAUD! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CALLING DR. RINEHART A FRAUD?

NO! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! YOU MUSTN'T!

AND THEN, JUST WHEN IT SEEMS THAT THINGS SIMPLY CAN'T GET ANY MORE CONFUSING ...

I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUT **SPIDER-MAN'S NAME!**

FLASH! YOU FOOL... STAY OUT OF THIS!

THERE YOU ARE! IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, SPIDEY, I'LL HELP YOU! I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF FIGHTING AT YOUR SIDE!

EVERYTHING'S RUINED! I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!

LET GO OF ME, YOU TEEN-AGE PSYCHOPATH... BEFORE I CALL YOUR KEEPER!

I'LL TRIGGER THE CONTROL ON MY DUMMY HEARING AID, TO CREATE A DIVERSION!

NO, YOU *DON'T*, RINEHART! YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY TILL I FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

THERE ARE MORE OF THOSE HALLUCINATIONS AGAIN... BUT SOMEHOW, THEY LOOK **UNREAL** NOW... THEY'RE NOT BOTHERING ME THE WAY THEY DID!

STOP! WAIT!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?

RACING THROUGH THE ADJACENT OFFICE IN PURSUIT OF HIS QUARRY, SPIDEY SEES ...

I... I **WASN'T** IMAGINING THINGS! THE FURNITURE IS NAILED TO THE CEILING! EVERYTHING IS UPSIDE-DOWN!

I CAME SO CLOSE! IF NOT FOR JAMESON, I WOULD HAVE HAD HIM!

SUDDENLY REGAINING HIS CONFIDENCE, THE MASKED WEB-SPINNER MAKES A FLYING TACKLE WITH THE EASE AND PRECISION OF OLD!

END OF THE LINE, BUSTER! YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF **EXPLAINING** TO DO!

THEN, YIELDING TO A SUDDEN IMPULSE, SPIDER-MAN GRASPS THE "PSYCHIATRIST'S" HAIR, AND GIVES IT A SHARP YANK, REVEALING ...

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH ?? WHY DIDN'T I GUESS SOONER?

IT'S MY OLD ENEMY, **MYSTERIO!** MYSTERIO, THE MASTER OF MYSTIC EFFECTS AND STARTLING ILLUSIONS!

MINUTES LATER ...

WHAT KIND OF PLACE *IS* THIS ?? WHO'S **THAT** ? WAIT... I RECOGNIZE HIM ...!

HE'S ALL **YOURS**, JAMESON! I GOT THE WHOLE STORY OUT OF HIM ... AND HE'S JUST **DYIN'** TO TELL **YOU**, TOO! FROM NOW ON WE BETTER PICK OUR DOCTORS A LOT MORE **CAREFULLY!**

NICE TRY, MYSTERIO! BETTER LUCK, **NEXT TIME**... BUT, NOT TOO MUCH BETTER!

THEN, REALIZING HIS INTRICATE SCHEME HAS FAILED COMPLETELY, MYSTERIO SADLY EXPLAINS TO THE MYSTIFIED J. JONAH JAMESON AND WIDE-EYED FLASH THOMPSON...

I'VE WANTED REVENGE ON SPIDER-MAN FOR YEARS! HE'S TOO STRONG TO FIGHT MAN-TO-MAN, BUT I FELT I COULD BEAT HIM IF I MADE HIM LOSE CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF... IF I MADE HIM THINK HE WAS CRACKING UP!

I WATCHED HIM FROM A SAFE DISTANCE, OPERATING MY MECHANICAL CAT AND BAT... AND MY SPECIAL MOVIES OF HIS FORMER FOES!

BUT, I HAD TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOMENT! I WAITED... AND WAITED... AND THEN, WHEN THE **BUGLE** STARTED PRINTING THOSE INTERVIEWS ABOUT HIM, I FELT THE TIME HAD COME! SO, I POSED AS A PSYCHIATRIST!

IT WAS SIMPLE TO ARRANGE THE TRICK OFFICES... I MERELY USED **DUPLICATES!**

BY THE TIME HE REACHED HERE, HE WAS SO AGITATED, HE WAS IN A STATE OF MIND WHERE HE'D BELIEVE **ANYTHING!**

I PLANTED DOUBTS AND FEARS IN SPIDER-MAN'S MIND! I KNEW HE WOULDN'T BE SUSPICIOUS IF I PLAYED MY CARDS RIGHT! AND IT ALMOST WORKED! MY ILLUSIONS SUCCEEDED PERFECTLY!

IT WAS ALL PERFECT! IT SHOULD NOT HAVE FAILED!

I ONLY NEEDED ANOTHER FEW SECONDS... I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE HIM **UNMASK!** I'D HAVE LEARNED HIS TRUE IDENTITY! I'D HAVE DEFEATED HIM FOREVER! BUT HE WAS SAVED AT THE LAST MINUTE... SAVED BY **YOU!**

YOU MEAN... IF I HADN'T BURST IN JUST THEN... IF I HADN'T INTERRUPTED WHEN I DID, SPIDER-MAN WOULD FINALLY HAVE BEEN **BEATEN??**

I'VE HATED HIM FOR **YEARS!** I'VE PLANNED A MILLION SCHEMES TO DISCREDIT HIM... TO DEFEAT HIM... TO **DESTROY** HIM! AND NOW, WHEN **YOU** WERE ABOUT TO DO IT FOR ME, I RUINED EVERYTHING!

HAH! SO GOOD OL' SPIDEY WINS AGAIN! HE BEAT MYSTERIO... AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HELPED HIM! WHAT A GIG! WHAT A GAS! WAIT'LL I TELL THE GANG!

WHAT A DAY! WHAT A **TRIUMPH!** I ACTUALLY SAW MY **IDOL** IN ACTION! HE EVEN **SPOKE** TO ME! EVEN IF HE **DID** CALL ME A FOOL... HE **SPOKE** TO ME!

BOY! EVEN THAT USELESS, SNEAKY, MEAT-HEADED PETER PARKER COULDN'T SPOIL THE WAY I FEEL NOW! WAH-HOO!

THEN, A SHORT TIME LATER...

HOW ABOUT JOINING THE REST OF US GIRLS FOR A SODA, LIZ?

LOVE TO, CONNIE! I'M JUST IN THE MOOD!

OH, NO! I **CAN'T!** THERE'S PETER PARKER! I'VE GOT TO **TALK** TO HIM!

OH, **PETEY!** HOW ABOUT HELPING ME WITH MY SCIENCE LESSONS NOW? CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME?

SURE, LIZ! I GUESS SO!

WELL! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? SHE LEFT ME FLAT, TO GO OFF WITH PUNY PARKER! I'VE GOT A GOOD MIND TO TELL **FLASH THOMPSON** ABOUT THIS!

I THINK IT'S SO SWEET OF YOU TO OFFER TO HELP ME, PETEY!

YEESH! HOW I WISH SHE WOULDN'T CALL ME PETEY!



WHILE, WAITING PATIENTLY AT PETER'S HOME, WE FIND...

IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT WAS BOTHERING PETER! THE BOY HAS NO MOTHER OR FATHER... I'M THE ONLY ONE TO LOOK AFTER HIM! IF ONLY HE'D LET ME!



AND THEN...

HI, AUNT MAY! I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU I'LL BE OVER AT LIZ ALLAN'S HOUSE FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE! I'M GOING TO DO SOME STUDYING WITH HER!

PETER! I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE... IF YOU WERE ALL RIGHT! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!



GOSH, THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT! I RAN OUT OF HERE LIKE A SHOT WITHOUT EXPLAINING TO AUNT MAY! SHE MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY UPSET!

YOU LOOK PERFECTLY FINE TO ME NOW, DEAR! BUT... YOU MUSTN'T GIVE ME SUCH FRIGHTS!



AFTER ALL, PETER, YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT IN THE WORLD! IF ANYTHING SHOULD EVER HAPPEN TO YOU...

AW, GEE, AUNT MAY... THIS IS EMBARRASSING... WITH LIZ HERE!



I'M SORRY I RUSHED OUT THAT WAY BEFORE... HONEST! I PROMISE I WON'T DO IT AGAIN! DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING! I'M JUST FINE! OKAY?

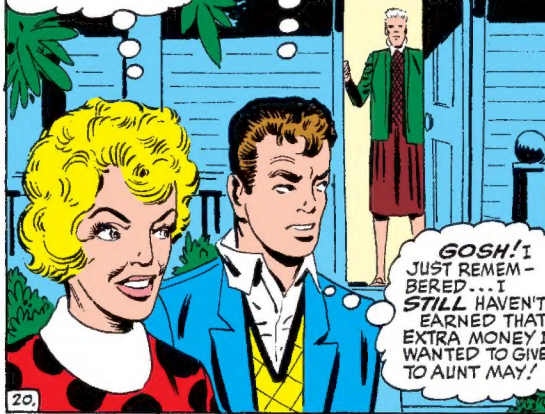
SHE'S SMILING AGAIN! GOOD! I HATE TO SEE HER WORRY!

ALL RIGHT, PETER DEAR! YOU RUN ALONG WITH YOUR YOUNG LADY! I'LL WAIT UP TILL YOU COME HOME!



I'M MAKING PROGRESS AT LAST! I FINALLY HAVE PETEY ALL TO MYSELF FOR A WHILE! HE'S SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN THAT EMPTY-HEADED FLASH!

I'D RATHER BE SPENDING MY TIME WITH BETTY, BUT... IF SHE'S GONNA KEEP ON WRITING TO NED LEEDS BEHIND MY BACK, I'LL SHOW HER!



GOSH! I JUST REMEMBERED... I STILL HAVEN'T EARNED THAT EXTRA MONEY I WANTED TO GIVE TO AUNT MAY!

THUS, OUR TALE IS ENDED FOR NOW, AS WE RELUCTANTLY LEAVE OUR LITTLE CAST OF CHARACTERS UNTIL NEXT ISSUE...



NOTHING CONCLUSIVE HAS BEEN SETTLED BETWEEN PETER AND BETTY... OR BETWEEN OUR HERO AND FLASH THOMPSON... OR INDEED, BETWEEN ANYONE! AND YET, ISN'T THAT THE WAY OF LIFE? WE NEVER KNOW WHAT SURPRISES ARE AROUND THE CORNER... AND NEITHER DOES THE YOUTH CALLED... **SPIDER-MAN!**



THE SPIDER'S WEB

Please address
your letters to:

THE MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR
625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022
N. Y.

—Well, how about that? We figured it was time for Spidey to flip his wig, and he came pretty close to doing it in this month's yarn! Confess now—how many of you guessed that our Dr. Rinehart would turn out to be Mysterio? In fact, how many of you guessed he'd turn out to be anybody else at all? Well, while we're waiting for your answers, let's see what our other Marvel madmen have to say . . .

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think that your SPIDER-MAN comic is fascinating, original and just plain great! It's so realistic that it's hard to realize that Spidey doesn't really exist—or does he? It would be nice if Spidey would, now and then, defeat a villain by a scientific means as he did in issue #2 in order to show that brains are just as important as brawn. Also, clear up this mess between Betty Brant and Peter Parker. It's just too much to see two people who are obviously made for each other separated. Furthermore, I think that Spidey should reveal his secret identity to Betty Brant. Also, I think that Spidey and the Torch should be on more friendly terms, although I don't think that many fans will agree with me on that! Tim Van Egmont, 5 Fiske Rd. Lexington, Mass.

Well, we'll soon find out how your fellow fanatics feel, Timmy boy, when the next mail starts pouring in. Meantime, we'll see what the Torch has to say about it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I've been reading comics for as many of my nineteen years that I can remember reading, but this is the first time I've broken down and subscribed. I just can't help it! I can't stand it when I miss an issue due to uneducated dealers. Enclosed for your Subscription Department is my check for twelve issues of SPIDER-MAN. I have converted enough of the girls in our house to the Marvel habit so that I won't be looked upon as a schizophrenic, so much as an initiate. A few of us would like to make a suggestion: Since so many of your readers, like us, are college students, we think giving one of your great heroes a college setting would be most interesting. Our vote goes to Spider-Man. You could even keep him at home—just have him and some of his high school contemporaries graduate and move on to college in the city. I think the dramatic opportunities of having Spidey in a dorm or fraternity house are entertaining, but he could decide to live at home to cut costs. Now don't try to tell us that Spidey is more the high school type. I have never seen him as immature and dull as even a college freshman can be—and you have him in high school?! And his cool manner and jargon are not at all out of place in a "college man." Take it from us "college women"! We nominate him because he's our favorite. Other characters who have a warm place in our adventurous hearts are Dr. Strange and Sub-Mariner (a romantic figure in the unrestricted sense of the word), and, of course, Daredevil. These are all on our "for-heaven's-sakes, buy-it-first" list. Delightful is our word for the Marvel Age of Comics!

Kitty Holmes, Ohio University
142 E. State St., Athens, Ohio 45701

And delightful is our word for Kitty Holmes! As for Spidey going to college, we've been toying with the same idea, so don't be too surprised if—!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I am writing to mention something I have never seen any reference to in your Letters Pages. That is the appropriateness of your Marvel story titles. In English

class our teacher told us that a title to a story must be appropriate and arouse interest. In other mags the titles usually amount to "So-and-so meets What's-his-name" or "So-and-so battles Watchamacallit" or "So-and-so gets Married" or even "Whozit Returns." All the Marvel comics in contrast have pleasing and interesting titles. Some fine examples are "A House Divided," "The Avengers Take Over," "It Started on Yancy Street" and "The Final Victory of Dr. Doom." All of these were from the F.F. Other examples are "The Uncanny Unicorn" from IRON MAN and "Every Hand Against Him" from THOR. Of them all, the best, title-wise, were "The Infant Terrible" and "The Final Victory of Dr. Doom." The worst was "Spidey Strikes Back." Please drop this "Spidey" bit! "Spider-Man Strikes Back" would have sounded much better. Still, I remain one of your most faithful readers.

James Morton
Pascagoula, Miss.

We enjoyed your letter, Jimmy—appreciate your faithfulness—considered your comments—but, Spider-Man sounds so formal to us . . . especially when we consider ol' Spidey a real buddy!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #38: The one you've been waiting for! In answer to countless requests, the seemingly unbeatable, super-powered Frightful Four returns to challenge the F. F.! And—you'll never forget the unexpected shock ending!

AVENGERS #15: This one is for all those who claim villains are never polished off for good in our mags! All we'll say is—wait till you read "Fight To The Finish With Zemo!" This is one time the Avengers really do some avenging—and if you like lots of super-villains, this one's for you!

DAREDEVIL #7: It's so exciting we can't wait to tell you! You're going to see a full length epic in which Daredevil battles the one, the only, the ever-popular Sub-Mariner! No matter how good you expect it to be, we have to be honest with you—it's even better!

THOR #115: This is the final round of Thor's battle with the Absorbing Man, and possibly one of the great fight scenes of all time! See why THOR has been acclaimed one of the best-drawn, most dramatically-written magazines in the mighty Marvel line-up!

STRANGE TALES: The Human Torch and the ever-lovin' Thing find themselves menaced by "The Sinister Space Trap!" And, the way Bob Powell draws it, it's a doozy! As for Dr. Strange, he finally comes "Face to Face With Baron Mordo," and comicdom will never be the same!

SUSPENSE #65: This one features the story you never expected to see! Remember the old Iron Man—heavy, bulky, slow-moving? Well, he lives again—to battle the new Iron Man! It's a gasser! And Captain America meets his greatest foe from the fatal forties—the fearsome Red Skull!

ASTONISH #67: A dramatic new twist affects the incredible life of the Hulk in "Where Walks the Behemoth!" It's the usual Lee/Ditko contemporary classic! As for Giant-Man, he faces a new off-beat menace and loses one of his powers! Which one? Well, that would be telling!

SGT. FURY #17: Even we in the bullpen can't understand how each ish of "the war mag for people who hate war mags" manages to top each previous ish! This one, "While The Jungle Sleeps" marks a new plateau of greatness for the hysterical Howlers! Try it—we know you'll agree!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have found your SPIDER-MAN comic your best effort, with the F.F. and SGT. FURY close behind. There has been much controversial discussion in the Letters Page so I decided to throw in my two cents worth. First, some readers have said that Spidey should reveal his identity to Betty Brant. This would ruin everything! Maybe he could reveal it to a male schoolmate who could be his friend (like Boom-Boom is to Matt in TWO-GUN KID), but never to Betty! Next, I love the Green Goblin, Kraven and your newest and greatest arch foe, the Scorpion. I would also like to see Doc Doom fight Spidey again. The thought just struck me that Sub-Mariner would be great against him, So long!

David Wilhelm, 2940 Sherwin
Chicago, Ill. 60645

So long, Dave! By the way, Steverino says "Boom-Boom" who?

Dear Stan and Steve,

After reading SPIDER-MAN #20 I have to tell you that you have hit another high peak. The Scorpion was different and there were enough side plots to keep the story moving. The death of the doctor was handled nicely, the fight scenes were good, although the Scorpion looked a bit awkward, and having J. Jonah create the villain was a novel idea. I think you'd better keep Jonah thinking about the Scorpion for a while because, in real life, he would not forget about such an incident so easily. I hope that in your M.M.M.S. you'll let us readers know about stories on the drawing board before you mention them in your Special Announcements Sections. These tasty little tidbits tend to arouse the curiosity and keep you looking for the next issue. Donald McGregor, 35 Sophia Dr. W. Warwick, R.I.

Got news for ya, Don! Even we don't know what's on our story boards until a few minutes before they hit the Special Announcements Section! In fact, if we don't think of something real quick, we won't be able to tell you what Spidey's next yarn is gonna be about! Talk about late deadlines! Man! We're always squeezin' thru by the skin of our teeth!

—Judging by the way your M.M.M.S. applications are pouring into our office, it looks as though everybody will be a member soon! We even got an envelope from the Daily Bugle—we didn't open it yet, but we're hoping it's from J.J.J.! By next ish, we'll try to print some of the comments we receive about our little ol' Marching Society, so if you haven't written yet to tell us what you think of our oversize membership button, undersize 33 1/3 rollickin' record, identification card, senseless stickers, and nutty welcoming note, you'd better do it soon, hear? And, if you haven't sent in your coupon yet, we're liable to take away your little web-shooters! And you wouldn't want that to happen!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #20. It was terrific! The Scorpion was the kind of foe I've been hoping for. One thing about the Scorpion was bad, though—his costume. It was absolutely the nuttiest thing I've ever seen. For one thing it was all green and had all sorts of lines all over it. The mask was horrible, too. Who ever heard of a green Scorpion? I think you ought to have Spidey battle Kraven, Vulture, Green Goblin, or Captain America. It makes me feel ill to think of the Green Goblin running around thinking that he's beaten Spidey. By the way, the Scorpion's back looks horrible because of that tail. You should call the Scorpion 'Scorpo' instead of 'Scorpey'—it's one letter shorter! Roger Parish, Rt. #1, Box 101 Savage, Minn.

How about 'Scorp,' Rog? It's two letters shorter! Or 'Scor'? Or maybe 'Sco'? 'Sc' perhaps? Then, there's always 'S'—or just plain ''! (Nobody's gonna top us, by golly!)

Dear Stan and Steve,

I've just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #20 introducing your newest villain, the Scorpion. Thanks again for a truly excellent story in the grand Marvel style. Nowhere but at Marvel would a hero really go down in defeat, discovering that he's up against someone more powerful than himself; never have I seen a hero go down fighting like Spidey did. He won out, of course, but no other hero ever fought a tougher battle or tried harder to win before

he actually did win. You remain consistent in excellent art, story, plot, characterization and all else. Just keep up the degree of excellence you've displayed, as I know you will. As long as Marvel is around I'll be reading comics—your comics. I guess that's the best compliment possible.

Buddy Saunders, 2102 Menefee
Arlington, Tex. 70012

And, from the best fans in the world, we expect nothing but the best compliments! Thanks a heap, Buddy!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Spider-Man makes his webbing shoot out by pressing his palm in which he has a secret device that makes this happen. What happens when he picks up something? As he is pressing his palm with the thing that he picks up, how come the webbing doesn't shoot out?

Jeffrey Isleib, 576 Nott St.
Wethersfield, Conn.

Oh, it's not just any old press, Jeff! He's gotta press it a certain way—with the ol' spider strength! At least, we think that's the answer!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Your Spider-Man Annual #1 was the greatest mag I've ever popped my peepers at! The Sinister Six were great! Those full page panels were magnificent. Steve Ditko must have worked himself to a frazzle. My favorite was the one on page 16 where Spidey K.O.'s Electro! Vulchy was his usual baldness, and Sandman just can't keep himself together. Mysterio has to cut down on that smoking, and Doc Ock seems to be getting more polite every day. Kraven needs a haircut, and Electro oughta quit sticking his fingers in plug fixtures. He seems to have an electrifying personality. Your article, "The Secrets of Spider-Man," relieved me of hundreds of questions. All in all, Spidey Annual #1 was your greatest achievement so far! One question I would like to ask, though. How long have Marvel Comics been in business and how long have you two worked there?

Scott Betts, 333 Oak St.
Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Mighty Marvel's been having its ups and downs for over 25 years now! Stan has been bullpen boss for almost all that time—but he's not as old as you think. He started in his teens! As for Steverino, he's a real Johnny-Come-Lately—hasn't been with Marvel for more than ten years! But we can hear him growling in the corner now—"It feels like a hundred!"

Dear Stan and Steve,

I am writing in answer to a letter in SPIDER-MAN #13. One particular fan states that "The Torch can wipe up the floor with Spider-Man! Remember the F.F. ANNUAL!" I have that Annual and it doesn't look like Spider-Man is running away—that fan must be blind! But, look at STRANGE TALES ANNUAL #2—our hero (Spider-Man, of course) traps the Torch in an ice-silicone trap which puts out his flame and imprisons him. Spider-Man could have destroyed the Torch if he'd wanted to. I'm a loyal fan of Spidey and I think that other fans should know the truth. Sorry, Charlie!

John Honovich, 292 Warburton Ave.
Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y.

We're sure glad Spidey has such staunch defenders, Johnny! But wait'll you hear what the Torch fans have to say! We'll be expecting an extra-heavy mail for the next few weeks!



—And now, a real treat awaits you in our next ish! It's gonna feature J.J.J.'s most amazing plan to capture and defeat Spider-Man, and—for once—the plan works! So, if you've been itching to see jolly Jonah come out on top some time, this is for you! Or, if J.J.J. is first on your hate list, you'll enjoy it, too! How can that be? You'll find out—in SPIDER-MAN #22!—And wait'll you see the completely different and unexpected foe poor Spidey has to battle! So, get those webs of yours untangled and watch for it—we like you too much to bear the thought of you missing it!



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE